SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES: A Selective List of Transitional Words and Phrases

Moving from one idea to another or one paragraph to another sometimes requires transition. Sometimes the transition is as simple as raising a question in one paragraph and answering it in the next, or introducing a quote from a new source with a statement about or by the person that leads into quoted material. But when you need a transitional word or phrase, below is a list from which to choose. Remember that one may be more appropriate for the tone of a particular news story than another.

To Mark Addition

beside, moreover
in addition, furthermore

To Mark Numerical Order

first, second
in the first place, secondly
thirdly, next
to begin with, finally

To Signal Sequence

again, also, and
and then, besides, finally
first... second..., furthermore, last
third, moreover, next
too

To Signal Time

eventually, after a few days, after a while, afterward
as long as, as soon as, at last, at that time
before, earlier, immediately, in the meantime
in the past, lately, later, meanwhile
now, presently, since
so far, soon, then
until, when, thereafter

To Signal Comparison

again, also
in the same way, likewise
once more, similarly
To Signal Contrast

otherwise  unfortunately  although  but
despite  even though  however  in contrast
in spite of  instead  nevertheless  nonetheless	on the contrary  on the one hand...  regardless  still
though  yet

To Signal Examples

after all  even  for example
for instance  indeed  in fact
of course  specifically  such as
the following example  to illustrate

To Signal Cause and Effect

accordingly  as a result  because
consequently  for this purpose  hence
so then  therefore  thereupon
thus  to this end

To Signal Place

above  adjacent to  below  beyond
closer to  elsewhere  far  farther on
here  near  nearby  opposite to
there  to the left  to the right

To Signal Concession

although it is true that  granted that  admittedly
it may appear  that  naturally
of course

To Signal Summary, Repetition, or Conclusion

as a result  as has been noted  as I have said
as we have seen  as mentioned earlier  in any event
in conclusion  in other words  in short
on the whole  therefore  to summarize